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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

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A
1. A method for managing an electronic document within
5 a computer network, the method comprising:
creating a customer profile for a user;
creating an electronic receipt containing
information about a transaction executed by the user at a
point of sale; and
10 sending the electronic receipt from the point of
sale to a database, wherein the database is designated by
the customer profile.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
15 receiving search parameters from the user, wherein
the search parameters specify an electronic receipt
within the database;
initiating a receipt search object which retrieves
the specified electronic receipt from the database,
20 according to the search parameters; and
downloading a copy of the retrieved electronic
receipt to a client machine designated by the customer
profile.
- 25 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
customer profile comprises at least one of the following:
customer name;
password;
credit card numbers;
30 client machine addresses;
tax deduction information;
purchase classification; and

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personal financial manager applications used on a client machine:

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
5 database containing the electronic receipts is on a credit card company server.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
10 database containing the electronic receipts is on a manufacturer server.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
15 database containing the electronic receipts is on a merchant cash receipt server.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
20 database containing the electronic receipts is on a clearing house server.
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
electronic receipt further comprises at least one of the following:
- customer name;
 - customer password;
 - 25 item type;
 - brand name;
 - date of purchase;
 - purchase price;
 - method of purchase;
 - 30 credit card number;
 - tax deduction status; and
 - warranty information.

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9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the search parameters comprise at least one of the following:

customer name;
5 customer password;
item type;
brand name;
approximate date of purchase;
approximate purchase price;
10 method of purchase;
credit card number; and
tax deduction status.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein merchants
15 and manufacturers may use the electronic receipts to send product information to customers, the product information comprising at least one of the following:

extended warranties;
product upgrades;
20 product recalls;
product safety updates;
identical items available for exchange; and
alternative and substitute items available for
exchange.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
25 electronic receipts are encrypted, preventing the information content of the electronic receipts from being modified.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the client
30 machine may be at least one of the following:

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personal computer;
laptop computer;
personal digital assistant;
mobile telephone; and
5 palm computer.

13. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
initiating the receipt search object to delete an
electronic receipt from the database, according to the
10 search parameter.

14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
initiating the receipt search object to
automatically delete an electronic receipt from the
15 database at a predefined time.

15. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for use in a data processing system, for managing
an electronic document within a computer network, the
20 computer program product comprising:
instructions for creating a customer profile for a
user;
instructions for creating an electronic receipt
containing information about a transaction executed by
25 the user at a point of sale; and
instructions for sending the electronic receipt from
the point of sale to a database, wherein the database is
designated by the customer profile.

30 16. The computer program product according to claim 15,
further comprising:

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instructions for downloading a copy of the retrieved electronic receipt to a client machine designated by the customer profile.

17. The computer program product according to claim 15,
wherein the customer profile comprises at least one of
the following:

18. The computer program product according to claim 15, wherein the electronic receipt further comprises at least one of the following:

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customer name;  
customer password;  
item type;  
brand name;  
30 date of purchase;  
purchase price;  
method of purchase;
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credit card number;
tax deduction status; and
warranty information.

5 19. The computer program product according to claim 15,
wherein the search parameters comprise at least one of
the following:

customer name;
customer password;
10 item type;
brand name;
approximate date of purchase;
approximate purchase price;
method of purchase;
15 credit card number; and
tax deduction status.

20. The computer program product according to claim 15,
wherein the electronic receipts are encrypted, preventing
20 the information content of the electronic receipts from
being modified.

21. The computer program product according to claim 15,
further comprising: instructions for initiating the
25 receipt search object to delete an electronic receipt
from the database, according to the search parameter.

22. The computer program product according to claim 15,
further comprising:
30 instructions for initiating the receipt search
object to automatically delete an electronic receipt from
the database at a predefined time.

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23. A system for managing an electronic document within a computer network, the system comprising:

- 5 a storage component which contains a customer profile for a user;
- a processing component which creates an electronic receipt containing information about a transaction executed by the user at a point of sale; and
- 10 a communication component which sends the electronic receipt from the point of sale to a database, wherein the database is designated by the customer profile.

24. The system according to claim 23, further comprising:

- 15 an input component which receives search parameters from the user, wherein the search parameters specify an electronic receipt within the database;
- a processing component which initiates a receipt search object to retrieve the specified electronic receipt from the database, according to the search parameters; and
- 20 a downloading component which downloads a copy of the retrieved electronic receipt to a client machine designated by the customer profile.

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